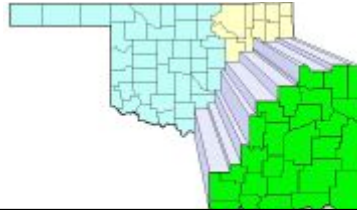




U.S. Department of Justice
Sheldon J. (Shelly) Sperling
Sheldon.Sperling@usdoj.gov
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Oklahoma
(918)684-5100



NEWS RELEASE

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For Further Information Contact: Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney or
Christopher J. Wilson, Assistant United States Attorney

MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA - Sheldon J. Sperling, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, announced today that JAMES BRIAN WRIGHT, age 30, of Sallisaw, Oklahoma, pled guilty to two counts of Felon in Possession of Firearm, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g).

"Charges arose from an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives and the Sallisaw Police Department. In February 2007, law enforcement officials went to WRIGHT's residence in Sallisaw to execute an outstanding arrest warrant from the State of Arkansas. Agents searched the residence and found a .22 caliber pistol under the mattress in the master bedroom. While agents were at the house, WRIGHT drove up in a pickup and agents found a .38 caliber pistol under the seat of the pickup. WRIGHT admitted possessing both weapons," stated U.S. Attorney Sheldon J. Sperling.

"The Honorable Kimberly E. West, Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma, in Muskogee, accepted the defendant's guilty plea and ordered the completion of a presentence report. Sentencing will be scheduled following its completion. The defendant is in the custody of the United States Marshal Service."

"The statutory range of punishment is up to ten years imprisonment and/or up to \$250,000.00 in fines for each count of Felon in Possession of Firearm. However, due to WRIGHT's criminal history, he may be considered an "armed career criminal," which increases the punishment to imprisonment of not less than 15 nonparolable years," stated U.S. Attorney Sperling. "A determination of the appropriate punishment will be made at the formal sentencing hearing."

"Assistant United States Attorney Christopher J. Wilson represented the government."

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